



February 29, 2016

Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Bill No. 5055: An Act Decreasing Wait Times at the Department of Motor Vehicles

Dear Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOC) opposes Bill No. 5055 as currently written. While the goal of Bill No. 5055 entitled "An Act Decreasing Wait Times at the Department of Motor Vehicles" is certainly laudable, the NHCOC objects to Section 7 and Section 8 of the bill which would repeal important provisions that assist our member towns in collecting delinquent property taxes.

Specifically, Sections 7 and 8 of the proposed bill would repeal Section 14-33 and Section 14-33a of the CT General Statutes. These existing statutes provide for the denial of registration renewals if motor vehicle property taxes or fines for parking violations are not paid. As stated by the CT Council of Small Towns, "This bill eliminates an effective tool in collecting back taxes and reducing the burden on property taxpayers who pay their taxes on time. "

It is unfortunate that a bill with the admirable goal of decreasing the wait times at the Department of Motor Vehicles is tarnished with the inclusion of Section 7 and Section 8. The NHCOC cannot support the proposed bill unless these onerous provisions are eliminated. We urge you to amend the proposed bill to eliminate Sections 7 and 8 of the bill, and maintain the existing statutory provisions that place an important ban on registering motor vehicles if an individual is delinquent on their property taxes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Lynn Jr., AICP
Executive Director